Theodore Justice Says They

Would Be Better Than Canal

as Means of Defense.

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 6.-

That waterways are of value not only in time of peace but in time of war,

and that an inland waterway along the Atlantic coast as a means of na-

tional defense would be of even great-er value than the Panama canal, is

the opinion expressed by Theodoro

Justice, of Philadelphia, who is com-missioner of Fairmount park.

"Haw many of us realize," said Mr.
Justice, "that but for the sinking of the battleship Maine the Panama canal

would today not even have been be

gun? When we were suddenly facing war we found out fleet divided, one part in the Atlantic, the other in the

Pacific, and each division liable to be

ing defeated in detail. The long hazardous trip of the Oregon around

Cape Horn was a matter of intense anxiety and aroused the whole nation

to the need of the Prnama canal as a means of national defense, so that

n case of need, we could unite all our warships in one mighty fleet and in either ocean. International Aggression.

"In my remarks before the conven-tion of the National Rivers and Har-

bors Congress in December last, I pointed out that the question whether the Panama canal, which was wholly

paid for by the United States and is wholly within United States territory,

is to be absolutely within United States control, had seemingly become

states control, had seemingly become an international question and had created a situation that was sur-charged with danger, one that might lead to conflict with the whole world

united against us, and that this con

flict might come upon us as suddenly as did the sinking of the Maine. The danger which existed at that time has been multiplied a hundred fold by the situation that now confronts us in

Mexico.
"Unnder such a peril our greater cities, New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, and even Washington, the cap-

ital of the nation, might be at the mercy of united European fleets, but this danger would be fully averted if the waterways that now connect New York harbor with the Deleaware river and Chesapeake bay were deepened sufficiently to allow the page

ened sufficiently to allow the passage of torpedo boats. This inland waterway would be safe from battle-ship attack and would have all the

advantages of a short inside line from

which offensive warfare might be more safely carried on . The benefits indicated for the section from New York to Chesapeake bay would be vastly extended and multiplied with the completion of the continuous.

the completion of the entire project, giving a protected waterway the whole

The National Value.
"The broad, national value of such

a waterway would be far greater to the people of the United States than

even that of the Panama canal, con-

ceding, as I do, quite as much for the national value of the latter as is

claimed by its most sanguine advo-

"Will any broad-minded and patrio-tic citizen of the United States not concede that matters of national de-

fense should have precedence at all

times over the many other meritorous projects that have been proposed? All of the latter proposed plans contain great commercial value to the nation, and I hope that within the course of

a reasonable time all of them will be developed, but in the interest of the

them all is the immediate preparation.

for national defense contained within the plans of the Atlantic Deeper Wat-

erways Association, extending all the way from Maine to Florida."

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